

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Within the Application, Claims 1-36 were pending in the application. The Office Action of July 12, 2005 restricted the application to one of two claim sets: claims 1-32 or 33-34. By the above amendment, claims 33-34 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 35 and 36, which had been previously entered by Preliminary Amendment were not addressed by the Office Action. The Office Action of July 12 further restricted the application to one of ten species. Claims 5-9, 19-20, 29-32 and 35-36 have been withdrawn, subject to the allowance of a generic base claim. Claims 1-4, 10-18 and 21-28 remain in the application.

Election of Claims

Within the Office Action, Examiner determined that Claims 1-32 directed to an apparatus are patentably distinct from claims 33-34 directed to a method. Examiner restricted the application to one of these two claim sets. Within the foregoing claim listing, claims 33 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant expressly reserves the right to re-submit cancelled claims in a Divisional Application according to the rules set forth in 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, 121, or 365(c) and 37 CFR §§ 1.53(b,d) and 1.78(a).

Election of Species:

In the Office Action mailed August 29, 2005, pending claims 1-32 are deemed to be directed to ten patentably distinct species, and applicant has been required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a species set forth in one of the following groups:

Species I: Figures 1-4, 10 and 12-13

Species II: Figures 5-8, 10 and 12-13

Species III: Figure 9

Species IV: Figure 11

Species V: Figure 14

Species VI: Figure 15

Species VII: Figures 16, 16a

Species VIII: Figure 17

Species VIII: Figure 18

Species VV: Figure 19

The Office Action does not identify claim groupings nor correspondence between the pending claims and specific species. As such, in response to the election requirement, applicant hereby elects claims 1-4, 10-18 and 21-28, the elements of which are all disclosed in Figures 1-4, 10 and 12-13, which were listed in conjunction with Species I by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that search and examination of such claims relates to the same class, and that examination can be completed without undue burden on the Examiner, even though the claims may relate to independent or distinct inventions (MPEP § 803). By the foregoing claim listing, claims 5-9, 19-20, 29-32, and 35-36 have been withdrawn as potentially falling outside the scope of the Elected Species. Applicant understands that claims being withdrawn under the Election requirement may receive consideration by Examiner if they depend from a generic base claim that is finally held to be allowable.

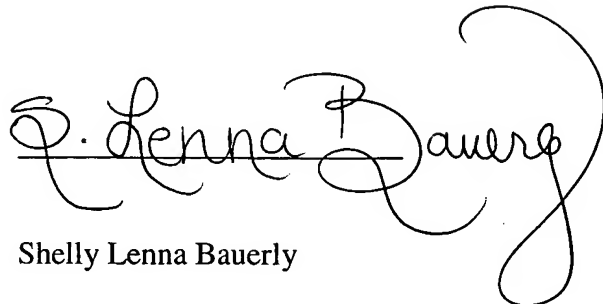
Claims Not Mentioned within the Office Action:

By Preliminary Amendment of March 3, 2004, claims 35 and 36 were added to the application. The Office action does not reference these additional claims. As noted above, Claims 35 and 36 have been withdrawn as potentially falling outside the Elected Species. Applicant requests confirmation that these claims have been entered in the present application.

Respectfully submitted

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By:


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